

Application Number: 10/776,554
Response to Office Action of July 5, 2005

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on July 5, 2005. Claims 1-21 are pending.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the LED having a wavelength of 720-1550 nm. Responsive thereto, Applicant has provided the proper antecedent basis in the specification. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the specification.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 10-12, 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Salmon et al. (U.S. Patent 6,202,242). Responsive thereto, Applicant has incorporated claims 4 and 5 into claim 1 and defined that the light is emitted from at least one LED mounted on an outer surface of the cleaning head. As Salmon et al. only teaches a light source provided in the handle, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Salmon et al.

Claims 1-9 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rizolu et al. (U.S. Patent 6,616,451). As with Salmon et al., the teaching of Rizolu et al. is clearly limited to the use of a light-emitting device in the handle (see in particular element 14). The light is guided from the handle to the bristle field through a series of mirrors, which is reflective of a light pipe arrangement. The present claims are limited to a light-emitting device having a source in the head. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on Rizolu et al.

Claims 1-7 and 10-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chan et al. (U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0050658). Responsive thereto, Applicant has incorporated claim 8 into claim 1, thus further limiting claims 1 et al. to a manual toothbrush. As the Examiner recognizes, and as Chan et al. specifically sets forth in paragraph [0045], the Chan et al. reference is clearly limited to only a powered toothbrush. Accordingly, Applicant

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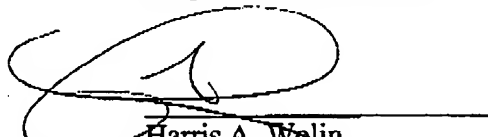
respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based on Chan et al.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1-3, 6-7, 9 and 14-21 are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 03-2455. Any overpayment may be credited to Deposit Account No. 03-2455.

Respectfully submitted,



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